



Rameshwaram Celebrates Second Anniversary



Chinmaya Rameshwaram celebrated its second anniversary on Jan. 14th. It was a wonderful day that brought together members who have been associated with the growth of CMLA from its small beginnings to its present size and those who are more new to the mission. There was nostalgia for the old, cozy days of every face being familiar and the excitement of knowing that Gurudev's message was being taken to more and more people in Southern California.

The morning began with a series of homams - Ganapathy homam, Navagraha homam, Sudarshana and Rama Beeja homam - to propitiate the gods, seeking their blessings for the well being of the entire CMLA family.

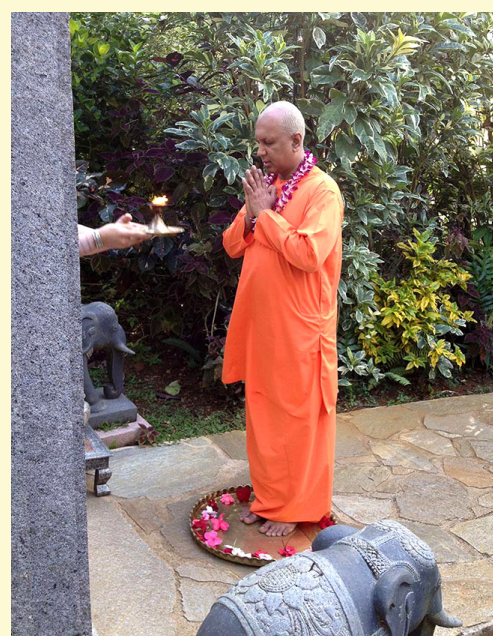
With Acharya Mahadevi carrying the padukas reverentially on his head, the Guru Paduka procession from the altar to the auditorium followed by the Chenda Melam group from the Organization of Hindu Malayalees was a ceremonial one, both symbolic and celebratory. The puja that followed included the congregation chanting the Guru Stotram and Guru Paduka Stotram.

The event was interspersed with music from Chinmaya Swaranjali and the Chinmaya Shruti choir groups, both of who had practiced specifically for the event.

Both the Acharyas, Swami Ishwarananda as well as Mahadevi spoke on the occasion. While Swamiji imparted guidance and wisdom, Mahadevi lauded the volunteers and spoke through first hand experience of the growth of CMLA pointing out that there now are 900 to students in Rameshwaram alone as well as a host of spiritual and cultural ongoing weekly programs.

After the program, a delicious prasada lunch was served.

Swamiji Visits Kauai Monastery



Swami Ishwarananda visited the Kauai ashram on Jan. 29. He was received with all the traditional respect that is accorded to a spiritual teacher, by the monks of the monastery. Kauai's Hindu Monastery, founded in 1970 by Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami (1927-2001), is under the spiritual direction of his successor, Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami. It is part of the Saiva Siddhanta Church, founded in Sri Lanka in 1949 and its spiritual heritage derives from the Nandinatha Sampradaya, which goes back to 2,200 BCE.

Swamiji told the members of the ashram that the purpose of his visit to the island was solely to visit the monastery. He, along with other members of CMLA attended the morning Siva puja, toured the lovingly crafted Iraivan Temple, and had meaningful and warm meetings with Bodhinatha as well as other swamis. The monks also served him and his entourage lunch.

Bodhinatha and Swamiji had met last in November 2008 during the former's visit to Kasi in Anaheim.

CMLA-VYASALA Begin Yoga Course at Rameshwaram

With the blessings of Swami Ishwarananda, a yoga course presented by CMLA and conducted by VYASA-LA (Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana - Los Angeles) has drawn considerable interest and is now being conducted each Thursday at Rameshwaram. The focus of the 11 week session is on the individual's healthy body and mind. Therapy sessions, for those interested will begin from March. For more information please email nimmicmla@gmail.com.



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